



Revised Judgement Plan sent to Area Director for review, recommendation

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

The revised Settlement Funds Distribution plan was mailed to Washington, D.C. and to B.I.A. Area Director Mr. Larry Morrin, in Minneapolis the first week in April.

Upon receiving the plan, Mr. Morrin will review, and if necessary,

See **JUDGEMENT PLAN** page 2

Community meeting on Dam proposal held

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The first of four meetings on two proposals that are being considered for the Neopit Mill Pond Dam was held on Monday April 17th at the Neopit Middle School.

The meeting began at 5 - with only a handful of residents in attendance - namely those who would be directly affected by one of the proposals on the drawing board.

See **DAM** page 2

Anti-Mining rally held in conjunction with Sturgeon Celebration



L. Tucker, B. Miller/MNN

RALLY—The chill of the morning did not stop marchers (above) from showing their support to ban the proposed Crandon Mine to protect and preserve the beautiful waters of the Wolf River. Right—Bill Cox, Sr., was honored at the Sturgeon Feast Celebration for his years of dedication to the event.

Additional photos, story on page 14



Research team finds evidence of Indian settlement

HOBART, Wis. (AP)—Archaeologists exploring the Oneida Indian Reservation have uncovered signs of human habitation 1,000 years ago, long before the Oneida arrived from New York.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin's seven-member team has found colored pottery but no human remains, said Marlin Hawley, a senior archaeologist for the society.

The artifacts are thought to have originated with ancestors of the Menominee Indians, whose reservation is now 40 miles to the northwest.

"Those were the people living here in the 1600's" when European explorers arrived, Hawley said.

The pottery is similar to other fragments found nearby in Brown and Door counties, Hawley said. The similarity to artifacts whose age is

known allows reliable dating of 800 to 1000 A.D., he said.

The team began digging in the town of Hobart between Brown County J and Packerland Drive near Duck Creek last week.

The dig is a routine precursor to road construction, said Mike Berg, a state Department of Transportation project development supervisor.

The road work could be affected by a major archaeological find.

The work has not been planned or budgeted yet, Berg said. The project will not start until 2006 at the earliest.

Investigators tabbed six sites on both sides of Wisconsin 29 between J and Packerland Drive for investigation after a preliminary check in 1998, Hawley said.

See **INDIAN** page 2

INSIDE . . .

3	Commentary
4-5	Entertainment
6	Health
7-10	Education
12	Happy Ads
13	Vital Statistics
11, 14-20	Community
21	Senior
22-23	Minutes
24	Mining

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Information pertaining to the two options was previously printed in the April 6th issue of Menominee Nation News. Officials from Community Development and Environmental Services were present to field questions raised by members of the community. Officials from M.T.E., Conservation, and Historic Preservation were also invited but did not attend.

Unfortunately, some questions were not adequately addressed because the appropriate officials were not present at the meeting. However, it was the consensus of those present that reconstruction of the dam would be more aesthetically sound - regardless of the cost - than removing the dam altogether.

The cost of dam reconstruction is \$500,000.00. An additional \$250,000.00 was listed to build a temporary road during dam reconstruction for a satisfactory entrance for loggers and employees. Residents argued that figure could be eliminated due to the fact that there are existing roads that could be used. The temporary road would be built with BIA highway construction funds.

Dam removal would cost \$150,000. Whereby, \$50,000.00 of the total expense would be used to change the mills fire pump system according to Dick Martens, Community Development Engineer.

Additional meetings will be held next week on Tuesday, April 25 from 5-7 p.m. in the Tribal Office Boardroom and again on Thursday, April 27th from 5-7 p.m. at the Neopit Middle School.

A slide presentation will be held showing the condition of the existing dam and a dam removal project that was completed in West Bend 10 years ago.

INDIAN:

"Within a half-hour, we started finding artifacts," he said. Areas of high ground near Duck Creek were good places for ancient people to live because they provided good access to water, fish and game, Oneida tribal historian Loretta Metoxen said.

Many tribes could have lived in the excavation area during pre-Columbian times, including the Potawatomi, Ottawa, Chippewa and Ho-Chunk, Metoxen said.

Researchers are probably right in labeling the finds Menominee, Metoxen said.

"It's a good educated guess," she said. "These are ancestral Menominee lands."

Corina Williams, historic preservation research assistant for the Oneida, said the tribe was

working with the Menominee to ensure finds are properly handled.

JUDGEMENT PLAN:

make recommendations. If additional recommendations are identified, they will be sent on to the main office which is based in Washington, DC Officials in DC will compile all the information and pass it on to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Gover and his staff. Upon review of the document, a summary will be prepared and the entire package - including the transcript from the listening session that was held on February 26th - will be presented to both houses of Congress.

Betty Jo Wozniak, Menominee Tribal Administrator, explained that once the document is in Gover's hands, the Tribe has no idea on how long it will take to get the document in the hands of Congress. However, "We (Menominee Tribe) made a formal request to have the document submitted to Congress by May 1st if at all possible," said Ms. Wozniak.

"If they do that and if Congress stays in session long enough, the 60 Congressional working days should be completed by sometime in July," she added.

Once the sixty (60) Congressional days are up, the proposal will be approved and distribution of the Judgement Funds will be completed within 30 days of the Congressional approval.

Both houses have up to sixty (60) Congressional days (when both houses are in session at the same time), to review for final approval.

"None of the dates are firm," explained Wozniak, "It (the issue) is out of our (Administration/Legislature) hands, everything depends on other people doing their jobs." Periodic updates will be provided via the Menominee Nation News if any new developments should occur.

Menominee Tribal members are encouraged to save this article if you need to be reminded of the timeline process that must be adhered to before distribution of the Judgement Funds is attained.